



The Beacon

*In thy light shall we see light.
Psalm 36:9*

June 2023

Summer Fruits

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Each June I typically offer you this prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer*,
*O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace;
and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew
our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Our bodies and souls need the rhythm of the seasons. The relaxed pace of summer is made sweeter by the busyness of spring that precedes and the anticipated excitement of fall. Summer is perfect for the kind of fruitful resting that brings new growth, the kind of mindful meandering that adds meaning to life. An intentional midday stroll to notice the progress of plant development. A leisurely lunch with a new friend to expand your circle of connections. A reading list that includes poetry, or non-fiction, or drama, or whatever it is you do not usually choose. One summer I set out to visit a different park or arboretum each week, which ended up making me feel happier and more grounded in my new home.

At St. Peter's, our schedule slows down in the summertime. Our three Sunday morning services become two. Some commissions take a month off from meeting. Programming shifts gears. Still, our park-like, sixteen-acre campus buzzes with activity, and we invite you to make St. Peter's part of your season of growth. Come up the hill whenever you can. Always you will find a welcoming, spiritually inspiring oasis, thanks to the many volunteers who keep the grounds looking beautiful. Almost always you will find someone around who is happy to visit for a bit.

In the pages that follow you will find information about specific ways that St. Peter's can be a vital part of your summer. You might choose to grow a Rule of Life. You might plan to participate in a "Third Place" event. You might even invite a friend to join you. Maybe you will choose to help out in July when we welcome the City Camp children for a day of fun on our hill. Maybe you love our festive Independence Day service music and the ice cream we enjoy after worship. Perhaps you crave casual conversation or are interested in hearing stories from sabbatical.

Whoever you are and whatever appeals to you, I am confident that there are ways for you to connect to this place. We are here and cannot wait to welcome you.

Growing a Rule of Life

Summer, when the natural world flourishes around us, is the perfect time to tend to our souls. So in this year's season of growth, we will "cultivate our relationship with God, Self, and Others" and create a "Rule of Life" so that we too will flourish.

To accomplish this goal, for seven weeks in June and July we will use the "Growing a Rule of Life" guide that the brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) developed to help order themselves in their monastic life. During the week, participants will watch a brief video and prayerfully engage with the guide; on seven Sundays (**June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, and 23**) they will meet for 45 minutes to discuss their experiences. The meetings will be at 9:15 a.m. on the first six Sundays, but the final one on July 23 will follow the 10 a.m. service. For more information or to sign up, please contact Abigail (610-644-2261 or abigail@stpetersgv.org).

Sabbatical Stories

Are you interested in hearing about Abigail's experiences in the Holy Land as well as more general sabbatical stories? Then join her after the 10 a.m. service for casual conversation on Sunday, **June 25, July 16, or August 27**.



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The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
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Bruce Glenny's Retirement

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

With mixed emotions, I share the bittersweet news that Bruce Glenny intends to retire from his role as organist and choir director at St. Peter's at the end of the summer. I am sad that he is leaving, and also wish him great happiness as he enters into fruitful retirement.

During his twenty years of faithful service, he has maintained and expanded our outstanding music program and built a special community among our musicians. With grace and skill, he has contributed to this parish in many ways: directing the stunning *Stabat Mater* in 2019, continuing the choir pilgrimages to Great Britain, and rising to every challenge posed by the pandemic. In addition, Bruce has been an excellent colleague in ministry for the past seven years.

The familiar saying, "Those who sing, pray twice," helps capture a bit of how I feel about Bruce's leadership. My spiritual life has been immensely enriched by his ministry among us. I am glad for being able to serve with him for three more months, and also for the privilege of sending him into retirement with every blessing.

We will celebrate Bruce and his long ministry here on September 10. Please watch for more details in the coming weeks. If you wish to contribute to a "purse" for Bruce, please send a check payable to St. Peter's Church (with "Bruce Glenny purse" noted on the memo line).

With input from Bruce, we have begun the search for a new organist and choir director, and I have met with the choir to hear their thoughts about the transition. Working along with me is a small group of parish leaders and choir members (Kate Mallon-Day, Linda Holden, Katie Franz, Luci Russell, and Melissa Shaner); I will communicate with the wardens, choir members and other parish leaders throughout the process. As always, I invite you to reach out to me, the wardens, or any vestry member if you have questions.

Three “Third Place” Events: Solstice, Supper, and Song

The concept of the “third place,” that spot besides home and workplace where community flourishes, has caught on because such places are essential to the common good. In these “third places,” we encounter relaxed conversation among both familiar faces and new acquaintances in a casual atmosphere that invites all people into the experience and where connections are made. At St. Peter’s we are exploring ways in which we can be a “third place” both for ourselves and for the community.

In that spirit, we invite you to embrace St. Peter’s as a “third place” this summer. You are welcome to come by anytime, and we have also planned three early evening events for all ages —on the third Wednesday of each summer month—that model the concept.

Solstice, Slices, Sips

June 21, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the summer solstice by enjoying the natural beauty of our campus, walking the labyrinth, and sharing conversation. Pizza and beverages for all ages will be served.

Summer Supper

July 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Come for supper at St. Peter’s. Deacon Jeff will grill hamburgers and franks to go with soft drinks, chips, and ice cream. If possible, please bring a salad or side dish to share.

Concert by Jazz Sanctuary

August 16, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Relax at a casual evening of jazz offered by Jazz Sanctuary. Watch for details in Keynotes, leaflets, and the *July Beacon*.

We hope to see you at any or all of these and encourage you to invite a friend. To help us plan, please let Abigail know that you plan to come via email (abigail@stpetersgv.org) or phone (610-644-2261), or by signing up after a service. If you find you can attend at the last minute, please just come, even if you hadn’t signed up.

Youth Jam Volunteers Needed!

On Saturday, June 10, St. Peter’s is hosting Youth Jam, the diocesan summer extravaganza, and we need YOUR help!

Duties will include set-up, clean-up, serving food and water, and helping as needed during the event. We are also asking you to lend us coolers for the day.

Please volunteer to help families in our diocese make summer memories by emailing juneyouthjam@gmail.com or by calling 610-400-8680.

Outreach News

You Don't Want to Miss City Camp!



If you suffer from that serious condition known as FOMO (“fear of missing out”), then you really must be on the lookout for City Camp 2023 sign-up sheets that are coming in June! This fun-filled day in the country will be here in six weeks, and we once again invite parishioners of all ages to help host this annual one-day outreach event—on July 12 this year, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. We need volunteers in a variety of areas: food (preparing and serving lunch), the book fair (organizing donated books and helping campers choose their books), camp activities (running the games and helping with craft projects), and waterslide supervision (ensuring the children’s safety on the always popular giant waterslide.)

Speaking of the waterslide, our tentative plan is to extend our waterslide rental from the end of camp until 4 p.m. Doing this will enable us to invite our parish and pre-school children as well as our Atwater neighbors to enjoy the slide, some light refreshments, and fellowship.

We hope you will join us for this rewarding day of fun that makes a world of difference for a bunch of really neat and appreciative kids!



Many hands make light work of creating 150 sandwiches and filling 150 lunch bags for CYWA! Come join us at 10 a.m. on June 20!



Cinco de Mayo Darby Dinner

The food ministry, which serves nutritious meals in area communities experiencing food insufficiency, has evolved into a ministry of friendship and camaraderie with those we serve. These communities have become part of our outreach family, we have come to know many of the residents by name, and our conversations with them matter. And this was so at our *Cinco de Mayo Darby* dinner last month.

Yes, we served nutritious taco salad (both beef and bean) with all the fixings. Yes, the folks loved the brownies for dessert. And yes, about fifty people came back for seconds (and even some thirds). But the real take-aways from the meal were the memories of the conversations at the tables. We learned some family histories about life in Darby and other nearby communities and appreciated hearing how much the return to weekly meals together means to the residents. The event was an important post-pandemic return to normalcy.

Whether you come to serve the food or to enter into conversation, plan to join us for our traditional “back to school” Darby dinner on Tuesday, September 5. Details will appear later this summer, but do reserve the date now so that you will be free to join us!

CONGRATULATIONS, HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

- **Cathryn Cheetham**, Conestoga High School. She is headed to the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut.
- **Owen Fowler**, Phoenixville Area High School. He will study electrical engineering in the Purdue University College of Engineering.
- **Honor Nestlehutt**, Westtown School. She will attend Case Western Reserve University.

CONGRATULATIONS, COLLEGE GRADS

- **Megan Caterino**, B.S. *summa cum laude*, University of Pittsburgh, with a double major in Psychology and Law/Criminal Justice/Society, She wants to work in federal law enforcement.
- **Dean Fitzgerald**, B.S. in Business Management, U. S. Military Academy. The newly commissioned Army 2nd lieutenant is headed to Fort Stewart, GA, for his first duty assignment.
- **JP Infortuna**, B.A. with high honors, The George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs. He is currently open to job offers!



Parish Leadership Changes since the Annual Meeting

Vestry warden: Luci Russell

Endowment chair: Wilson Smith

Finance chair: Dave Lockner

Interim outreach chair: Jeff Moretzsohn

Treasurer: Paige Infortuna; assistant treasurer: Peter Kreek. This is the next step in a planned transition; Peter will continue to be completely involved in almost all the same ways as before.

Barn Kitchen Update



On April 30, about fifty people came to the barn for a simple soup supper to learn about the barn kitchen project, how this space can be a “third place,” and why we need to finish what we planned in 2005. We envisioned the barn as a flexible-use space both for worship and Sunday school and also for building community within St. Peter’s and beyond. Completing the kitchen will allow us to create more fellowship opportunities for ourselves, our neighbors, and the wider community.

On May 23, a team from Warfel Construction took initial measurements and will meet with our kitchen committee to give us an overview of design possibilities, including an estimate of their cost. In the meantime, our committee is meeting with individuals who have asked to discuss the project with us and is also putting together a capital campaign strategy we can set in motion once we know Warfel’s financial projections. Those figures will include the cost of mandated township and county requirements for a certified kitchen as well as the cost of additional features that we want to have eventually, but not necessarily on day one.

We will keep the parish informed as we move along. Paige Infortuna, Eileen Klein, and Tracy Patches will be happy to answer any questions you have. This is an exciting time for St. Peter’s and its future. We hope you will pray this prayer that the kitchen committee has created: “Dear Lord, please guide our path as we find you in the kitchen to support St. Peter’s parish and our communities through our barn. Amen.”

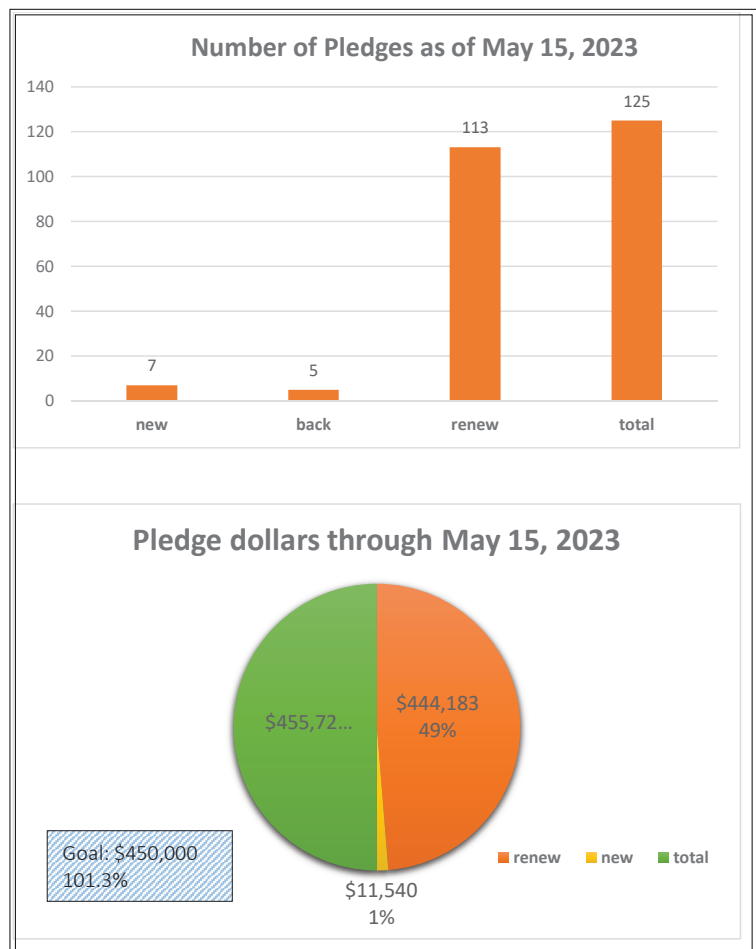
- Gary Gress, who accompanied the choir on the organ at the Palm Sunday evensong;
- The Rev. Dr. Karl Kreuger for leading us during Abigail’s three-month sabbatical, including our observances of Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter;
- Sarah Tellefsen for organizing the celebratory reception following the annual meeting;
- Mark Nestlehutt, Martin McElroy, and Jeff Moretzsohn for leading adult forums in May;
- All who staged and participated in the “What’s Cooking in the Kitchen” soup supper—especially Gail and Frank Guthridge, Patti Hagstrom, Holly Hardester, Eileen and Randy Klein, and special guests Nina Guzman (Alianzas de Phoenixville), Vicar Doris Rajagopal (Darby Mission), Gary Russell (St. Peter’s, Phoenixville), and Roger Wayne (CYWA);
- Parishioners who have suggested topics for next year’s adult forums;
- Susy Baum, Diane Martineau, and Dave Tatum for planting, weeding, mowing, and mulching the magnolia garden;
- The Thorne Foundation and individual parishioners who funded the \$5,500 restoration and painting of the east windows of the historic church.



A Graphic Stewardship Report!

The stewardship commission decided to show, rather than tell about, the high degree of parish involvement in St. Peter’s through graphs based on pledging data that show how we share our treasure. The commission thanks you for pledging annually (the traditional thinking about stewardship) and also for your additional generosity throughout the church year. It also thanks you for the time and talent you devote to the work of St. Peter’s, and for being, as Pastor Karl said, a true beacon in the community! We appreciate all of you *and* your contributions of time, talent, and treasure.

New this year, the commission is sponsoring a parish-wide competition for the theme of our next stewardship campaign. So be your most creative, and contact Amy Fisher (aroller@gmail.com) or Jan Himmelreich (himmeljk@gmail.com) with your idea! Perhaps the theme you suggest will win the prize!



June 3
Needlework ministry
10 a.m.

June 4
Holy Eucharist
10 a.m.
Choral evensong
4 p.m.
Reception afterwards

June 10
Youth Jam
1 to 4 p.m.



June 11
Summer schedule begins
Holy Eucharist, 8 & 10 a.m.
“Growing a Rule of Life”
9:15 a.m.

June 18
“Growing a Rule of Life”
9:15 a.m.

June 19
Book club
7 p.m. (Zoom)

June 20
CYWA sandwich-making
10 to 11:30 a.m.

June 21
“Solstice, Slices, and Sips”
6 to 7:30

June 25
“Growing a Rule of Life”
9:15 a.m.
Sabbatical conversation
11:20



An Independence Day Heads-up

Plan to join us for worship (with festive music) at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 2, and to stay for an ice cream social afterwards.

April Financial Snapshot

	April 2023	Year to Date April	Year-end Projection	Budget 2023
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 44,838	\$185,861	\$550,085	\$530,504
Other Income*	12,622	37,551	201,533	208,637
Total Income	57,460	223,413	751,619	739,141
Total Expense	46,792	216,360	728,459	739,141
Surplus / (Deficit)	10,668	7,052	23,159	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions*

As of April, total income for the year is projected to be slightly above forecast, as a result of higher-than-expected yields on interest income. Our total expenses also appear slightly less than forecast, largely because we had no snow removal costs in the first quarter. —*Dave Lockner for the finance commission*



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
 Deby Harrison & Aleta Ross, Interim Youth Co-ministers
 Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator
 Erinn White, Preschool Director
 Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator
 Mario Delano, Weekend Facilities Manager

*Our Mission:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 to nurture people of all ages in the
 knowledge and love of God in Jesus Christ,
 and to make Him known
 in the wider community*

The deadline for the
 July/August *Beacon*
 is **June 15.**

Weekly Summer Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday, June 4

10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2**

Sunday, June 11 thru Sept. 3

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1*

10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*

First Sunday

10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*

Fellowship follows all services

Wednesday

10 A.M. Morning Prayer & Bible Study***

Thursday

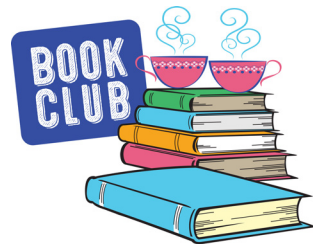
10:30 A.M. Intercessory Prayer Group***

Friday

8 A.M. Gathering of Men***

- * Church
- ** Barn
- *** Virtual

Parish office open Mon. thru Thurs., 9 A.M. to 4 :30 P.M.



JUNE 19, 7 P.M., VIA ZOOM

The selection for June is Patricia Engle's *Infinite Country*, which sets forth the themes of community, family separation, and home through the lives of a family from Colombia. For the Zoom link, please contact the parish office.

Note:
 Noonday prayer
 is on summer recess.